

Tape 185

**Walter P. Remington**  
by  
**Cleona Remington**

Interviewed on April 5, 1987

Transcribed by Lori G. Robinson, July, 2001

The following is an interview conducted by Lapoint Elementary sixth grader, Monique Greedhead, granddaughter of Cleona Remington. The subject is Walter Poage Remington.

Monique Greedhead (MG): I'm Monique Greedhead. I am interviewing my Grandmother Remington, Cleona Larsen Remington, who is seventy-five years old. The subject to be discussed is on my grandpa, Walter Poage Remington. This interview will be held at my home on April 5, 1987. This will be part of an oral history project.

MG: What was he like? Describe him.

Cleona Remington: ? in height; he weighed a hundred and sixty pounds, wavy brown hair and brown eyes, a very pleasant smile. He was courteous, kind, and compassionate. He was particular about his clothes and always looked neat and clean.

MG: What was it like to be around him? Describe it.

Cleona: He was an avid reader and was interesting to talk to and had lots of friends. He spent a lot of time in scouting and youth programs. He loved to work with the youth. He was very good at keeping them entertained and happy.

MG: How did he handle your children and grandchildren? Can you explain?

Cleona: He loved his children and grandchildren and taught them to be obedient and considerate of everybody. He had a deep respect from his children. When you, Monique, were just tiny, about a year and one-half old, you would wink for him, and he thought that was so special.

MG: Did he ever leave you and your children alone?

Cleona: Only at times, when he was employed away from home, and we couldn't be with him. He was a family man and loved home, and he set a good example for his sons to follow.

MG: Can you describe what some of these times were like, when he wasn't there?

Cleona: When we were at home with him?

MG: Yes.

Cleona: He believed in disciplining some. Sometimes he'd say, "Spare the rod, and spoil the child." But unless it was very necessary, why, he never did do anything physical to the children. He always just talked to them and showed them by his love that if they made a mistake, why, he would try to show them what the mistake was and try to help them to correct it. And he usually had pretty good success with them. He was always kind to them.

MG: Did he take your family on picnics or family outings? Describe some of them.

Cleona: Yes, quite often. We'd go to the mountains in the summer, and we'd have a picnic. Maybe the little kids would go swimming in one of the little streams or the lakes. Maybe they'd fish a little bit and find some worms to put on their hooks. Sometimes we'd just make a willow fishing pole, put a little string on it with a worm on the end of it, and they'd have a great time just fishing and trying to catch some fish that we could fry for dinner while we were up in the mountains. Sometimes we'd play baseball [or] go out and play ball and kick-the-can. They had a lot of fun up there. In those days we didn't have the parks and things to go to like we have now, so we'd go to the mountains and stay and enjoy the mountains in the summertime.

One time we went on a trip and stayed in a motel, and your mom, she remembers about that, and she remembers how special that was 'cause she hadn't been used to going and having all these things in a motel. So she was very happy about being able to go and remembering the things that happened when we went on this motel party, went up into Yellowstone, saw the animals and things up there. We really enjoyed that.

MG: Was he fun to be around?

Cleona: He had a good sense of humor and loved sports, served his community and the country and the church well.

MG: What did he do for a living? Was he good at it?

Cleona: He was a rancher. He worked for the State Road Commission, maintaining highways, and [as] a supervisor for the University of Utah building maintenance. Yes, he was good at all of them. Very dependable in the commitments he made.

MG: What were some of his favorite hobbies?

Cleona: Well, he loved working with wood and leather and enjoyed the beauties of the earth, loved to see things growing. He was a good cook, would often prepare meals for the family. We'd go out and barbeque. Sometimes we'd have a barbeque out in the yard. Your grandfather was always good at going out and helping to get the things going for the barbeque, getting a fire going.

One time we had to clear a bunch of brush off my ranch, out on the other place, and we went. We'd go and work in the daytime and pile up the brush. Then at night we'd go over and set a big bonfire and roast wienies and marshmallows, and the kids thought that was very special.

We worked pretty hard to get the brush piled up so that we could have a big fire at night, and enjoy it that way. Sometimes we'd roast ears of corn in it, and that was good and potatoes.

We always enjoyed that, and got the work done and had fun, too.

MG: What kind of things did he make out of his leather?

Cleona: Oh, he made a purse, and I have a wallet that I have in my purse now with my bank book in. It's one that your grandpa made for me. And he made some belts, and he trimmed up some things for his saddle and made a halter for a horse and things like that. He enjoyed doing things like that. Wallets, he liked to make wallets.

MG: Is there anything else you'd like to add to that?

Cleona: Your grandfather hadn't had an easy life when he was younger. His mother died when he was only fifteen, and left he and his dad alone. He managed to go out, and they went to live in Salt Lake for a while, and he went to Granite High School, out in Salt Lake. He got to be a pretty good golf player while he was out there. He enjoyed golfing. He thought that was fun. He would go up to Nibley Park and some of those places, I guess, and had a lot of fun in those parks out there.

It wasn't easy. It was hard for him to do the things at about the time in his life when a young boy needs a lot of love, a lot of love and support. But his dad, they were good. They was good with each other and had a good time raising him. He'd liked to have been a doctor. He would liked to have went to medical school if he'd have had the money and been able to gone. But in those days it wasn't that easy to get the money to put him through medical school. I think your grandfather would have made a very good doctor 'cause he was very tender, and he could really bandage up a wound with the kids and take care of their little bumps and hurts a lot easier than, well, than even I could. So, that's another thing about your grandfather that you might like to know.

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